

Amendment 101 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

1. In Table ES-2, row “Apportionment of TAC”, paragraph beginning with “Sablefish:”, delete text marked in strikeout, and add the text in bold (excepting the initial “Sablefish”):

Sablefish: the Eastern regulatory area is divided into two districts, West Yakutat and Southeast Outside. In the Eastern regulatory area, vessels using ~~hook-and-line~~ **longline** gear ~~and-or~~ longline pot gear will be permitted to take up to 95% of the TAC, and vessels using trawl gear up to 5%. In the Western and Central regulatory areas, vessels using ~~hook-and-line~~ **longline** gear ~~and-or~~ longline pot gear will be permitted to take up to 80% of the TAC, and vessels using trawl gear up to 20%.

2. In Table ES-2, row “Authorized Gear”, delete text in strikeout and add text marked in underline:

Gear types authorized by the FMP are trawls, ~~hook-and-line~~ longline (including hook-and-line, jig, troll, and handline), pots (including longline pots and pot-and-line), ~~jigs~~, and other gear as defined in regulations.

Sablefish: Legal gears for taking sablefish in the GOA are ~~hook-and-line~~ longline gear, longline pot gear, and trawl gear. Pot-and-line gear is not an authorized gear type for sablefish.

Flatfish: For vessels using nonpelagic trawl gear, elevating devices on the sweeps are required when directed fishing for flatfish species in the Central GOA Regulatory Area.

3. In Section 3.2.3.4.3.3.1, delete text marked in strikeout, and add text marked in bold:

In the Eastern regulatory area, ~~from 1986 forward~~, vessels using longline **or longline pot** gear shall be permitted to take up to 95 percent of the TAC for sablefish. Vessels using trawl gear shall be permitted to harvest up to 5 percent of the TAC for sablefish.

In the Central and Western regulatory areas, ~~from 1987 and 1989 forward (respectively)~~, vessels using **longline or longline pot** gear shall be permitted to take up to 80 percent of the sablefish TAC, and vessels using trawl gear shall be permitted to take up to 20 percent of the TAC.

4. In Section 3.4.1, delete text marked in strikeout, and add text marked in bold:

Gear types authorized by the FMP are trawls, ~~hook-and-line~~ **longline (including hook-and-line, jig, troll, and handline)**, pots (**including longline pots and pot-and-line**), ~~jigs~~, and other gear as defined in regulations. Further restrictions on gear that are necessary for conservation and management of fishery resources and which are consistent with the goals and objectives of the FMP are found at 50 CFR part 679. Additional gear limitations by specific target fishery are described in Section 3.4.2.

5. In Section 3.4.2, delete text marked in strikeout, and, excepting headers, add text marked in bold:

~~3.4.2.1.1.1~~ **Sablefish**

Legal gear **types** for the taking of sablefish in any regulatory area of the GOA are trawls, ~~and hook-and-line~~ **longline, and longline pot** for the fixed gear fishery. **Pot-and-line gear is not an authorized gear type for sablefish.**

~~3.4.2.1.1.2~~ **Flatfish**

For vessels using nonpelagic trawl gear, modifications that include elevating devices on the sweeps are required when directed fishing for flatfish species in the Central GOA Regulatory

6. In Section 3.6.2, delete text marked in strikeout, and add text in bold:

Prohibited Species is non-retainable catch, except when their retention is required under Section 3.6.1.42 **or by other applicable law**. It can take the form of a prohibited or non-groundfish species and/or a groundfish species for which TAC has been achieved that is captured incidentally in groundfish fisheries. A PSC limit is an apportioned, non-retainable amount of fish provided to a fishery for PSC purposes. The attainment of a PSC limit for a species will result in the closure of the appropriate fishery.

7. In Section 3.7.1.1, paragraph beginning “Fixed Gear”, delete text marked in strikeout, and add text in bold:

Fixed Gear is defined to include all ~~hook and line~~ **longline and pot** fishing gears (~~longlines, jigs, troll gear, and pot gear~~). For purposes of initial allocation, legal pot gear will be counted.

8. In Section 3.7.1.7, enumerated paragraph 2, delete text marked in strikeout, and add text marked in bold:

2. Quota shares and IFQs arising from those quota shares may not be applied to: 1) trawl-caught sablefish; or 2) sablefish harvested using ~~pots~~ **pot-and-line gear (i.e., not harvested with pot gear in a longline configuration)** in the GOA.

9. In Section 4.1.2.3, delete text marked in strikeout, and add text marked in bold:

Sablefish in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and GOA are considered to be of one stock. The resource is managed by region in order to distribute exploitation throughout the range of the stock. Large catches of sablefish (up to 26,000 mt) were made in the Bering Sea during the 1960s, but have since declined in that area. Catch in the GOA peaked in 1972 at 36,776 mt, and rose again in the late 1980s. The projected 2004 exploitable biomass is 179,000 mt in the GOA, with an ABC of 16,550 mt. Biomass of the sablefish stock off Alaska appears low and stable.

The TAC for sablefish is apportioned among gear types. Sablefish in the Western and Central GOA is allocated 80 percent to ~~hook and line~~ **longline and longline pot** gear and 20 percent to trawl gear. In the Eastern GOA, the sablefish TAC is allocated 95 percent to ~~hook and line~~ **longline and longline pot** gear and 5 percent to trawl gear.

~~Longlined pots are not a legal gear type for sablefish in the GOA. The fixed gear apportionment of the sablefish TAC is managed under an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program, which began in 1995. Twenty percent of the fixed gear allocation is reserved for use by community development quota (CDQ) participants.~~ Important state water sablefish fisheries occur in Chatham Strait, Clarence Strait, **and** Prince William Sound, ~~and the Aleutian Islands.~~

10. In Appendix A, add the following text:

Amendment 101, implemented on (*insert effective date of amendment*), revising Amendment 14: Allowed the use of longline pot gear in the GOA sablefish IFQ fishery.

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